

# Miami Dade County Fire Rescue Department

## Instructions for a Tent Permit

Applications for Tent permits may be secured from the Fire Engineering and Water Supply Bureau located at the Miami Dade County Herbert S. Saffir Permitting and Inspection Center, 11805 SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33175. Telephone: (786) 315-2771. Application for tent permits must be made three weeks prior to the event.

Tent permits will not be issued unless Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department, Fire Prevention Division approves the permit application and inspects the site. To have an inspection, customer will call Fire Prevention at **(786) 331-4800** at least 5 days prior to opening. Sites will be ready for occupancy at time of inspection; otherwise the permit will not be issued. **Tent permits shall not be valid for more than 180 days at the same location without a new permit.**

**Permit is not valid until site has been inspected and the Fire Department Inspector signs the permit.** Permits are to be kept on the premises along with all other required documents and are subject to inspection by any representative of the Fire, Police, or Building & Zoning Departments. Tent permits are issued for a specific use as indicated on the application. Any change of use will require a new tent permit.

### **To apply for a tent permit, the following must be provided at the time of application:**

- [ ] Provide copy of flame spread certification for structure [tent].
  - [ ] Provide structural certification if required by the Building Department.
  - [ ] All tents will be identified as to their intended use and the occupant load will be provided.
  - [ ] Detailed site drawings dimensioning the tent(s) location(s) in proximity to all buildings, structures, streets, and customer parking.
  - [ ] An interior floor plan of each tent showing all aisles, exits, exit signs, seating, fire extinguishers, and emergency lighting as required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code (NFPA 1, and NFPA 101).
  - [ ] All interior decorations are to be identified and documented as meeting flame retardant standards of the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
  - [ ] Provide the dates and hours of operation.
  - [ ] Permit application fees payable to Miami-Dade County as per the fee schedule:
    - Assembly occupancies    **50 to 300 people...\$50.00**
    - 301 to 1,000.....\$75.00**
    - over 1000.....\$100.00**
    - All other uses\*\* ... \$50.00**
- \*\*400 sq./ft or over and/or any size tent/membrane structure having hazardous materials or processes or open flame devices, \$50.00 each.

# Requirements for tent approval:

## [ ] Permits

- Tent permit on site. **Permits are not valid for more than 180 days.**
- Permitting documents (site plan, flame spread documentation, floor plan, seating plan, etc.) on site.
- Valid Sparkler registration on site for each location per State Fire Marshal Rule Title 4A-50.

## [ ] Separation

- Occupancy support vehicles, generators, transformers or any other combustion type engines will not be parked within **20 feet** of any tent.
- Customer parking, minimum **20 feet** from any tent and shall not block emergency vehicle access lanes.
- Emergency vehicle access lanes of **20 feet clear** on one or more sides accessible from the street.
- Vehicles on display shall comply with Chapter 12.7.4.4 of NFPA101.
- A minimum clear area of **10 feet** between stake lines on all sides.

## [ ] Smoking and Open Flame Devices

- Smoking or open flame type devices are not permitted in tents.
- "**NO SMOKING**" signs are to be conspicuously posted.
- No fireworks or spark producing devices are permitted to be used in or adjacent to tents.
- Toy balloons or other similar devices that are inflated with poisonous, explosive or flammable gas are not permitted.

## [ ] Heating and Cooking Equipment

- All equipment to be installed as per the Florida Building Code and shall be approved by the chief fire code enforcement official or their designee (inspector).
- Heating and cooking equipment shall be vented outside as specified in the Florida Building Code.
- Cooking tents utilizing deep fryers will be required to have Class K fire extinguishers in addition to the regular required extinguishers.

## [ ] Fire Protection Equipment

- One type **2A 10BC** fire extinguisher is required for each **400** sq. ft. up to 1200 sq. ft (3 extinguishers), and one additional extinguisher for each 1000 sq. ft. thereafter.
- All support areas (kitchens, generators, transformers, etc.) require a minimum of one **10 BC** type extinguisher.
- **Cooking tents utilizing deep fryers will be required to have Class K fire extinguishers in addition to the regular required extinguishers.**
- All fire extinguishers shall bear a current certification tag by a Florida licensed fire protection equipment contractor.
- Any specialized fire equipment or additional needed equipment will be identified by the inspector at time of inspection [hose lines, water supplies, etc.].

## •Requirements for tent approval cont'd:

### [ ] Exits

- The number of exits and the capacity of exits shall be per the Florida Fire Prevention Code for the type of occupancy and the occupant load.
- The width of all means of egress shall be per the Florida Fire Prevention Code for the type of occupancy and the occupant load. (Assembly, Mercantile, Business, etc.)
- Exits will be kept clear and maintained at all times.
- **All means of egress** shall be marked and illuminated per NFPA 101 7.10.
- **Emergency lighting**, if required by chapter 12 through 42 of NFPA 101, shall comply with NFPA 101 7.9.

### [ ] Storage of Flammable or Combustible Liquids

- Shall not be stored in any tent or less than **50'** from any tent used for public assembly.
- Storage and dispensing of flammable liquids shall be in accordance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
- Liquefied petroleum gas shall be stored and used according to the requirements of Florida Fire Prevention Code, NFPA 102 and NFPA 58.

### [ ] Housekeeping

- Exits will be kept clear and maintained at all times.
- Weeds and all flammable vegetation will be kept clear of the premises for a distance of **35'** minimum.
- The interior and exterior areas of tents will be kept clear of all combustible waste. Such waste will be stored in approved containers or removed from the premises as needed.

### [ ] Fire Watch

- Fire Watch may be required if site requirements are not met or other circumstances require it as determined at time of application or by the fire inspector at time of inspection.
- All assembly uses with an occupant load exceeding 300 people will require Fire Watch.
- Standby fire watch shall be provided in accordance with the policies of the Miami Dade Fire Rescue Department.

### [ ] Abatement of Fire or Panic Hazards not specifically covered by this section.

- Any unforeseen condition that presents a fire hazard or would contribute to the rapid spread of fire, or would delay or interfere with the rapid exiting of persons from a tent, or would interfere with or delay the extinguishing of a fire and which is not otherwise covered by this section shall be immediately abated, eliminated or corrected as ordered by the Fire Marshal or his designee.

### [ ] Final Inspection

- All final inspections have been approved by all jurisdictions before any occupancy or stocking of supplies and equipment.
- For **Fire Inspection** call 786-331-4800 **five days before** the event or use of the tent.

## **Chapter 11 SPECIAL STRUCTURES AND HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS**

### **11.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **11.1.1 Application.**

The requirements of Sections 11.1 through 11.11 apply to occupancies regulated by Chapters 12 through 42 that are in a special structure. The provisions of the applicable chapter (that is, 12 through 42) shall apply, except as modified by this chapter. Section 11.8 applies to high-rise buildings only where specifically required by Chapters 12 through 42.

#### **11.1.2 Mixed Occupancies.**

(See 6.1.14.)

#### **11.1.3 Special Definitions.**

(See the defined terms within each special structure section.)

#### **11.1.4 Classification of Occupancy.**

Occupancies regulated by Chapters 12 through 42 that are in special structures shall meet the requirements of those chapters, except as modified by this chapter.

#### **11.1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents.**

Classification of hazard of contents shall be in accordance with Section 6.2.

#### **11.1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements.**

Minimum construction requirements shall be in accordance with the applicable occupancy chapter.

#### **11.1.7 Occupant Load.**

The occupant load of special structures shall be based on the use of the structure as regulated by Chapters 12 through 42.

### **11.11 TENTS**

#### **11.11.1 General.**

##### **11.11.1.1**

The provisions of Section 11.1 shall apply.

##### **11.11.1.2**

Tents shall be permitted only on a temporary basis.

##### **11.11.1.3**

Tents shall be erected to cover not more than 75 percent of the premises, unless otherwise approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

#### **11.11.2 Flame Resistance.**

##### **11.11.2.1**

All tent fabric shall be flame resistant in accordance with 10.3.1.

##### **11.11.2.2**

One of the following shall serve as evidence that the tent fabric materials have the required flame resistance:

- (1) The authority having jurisdiction shall require a certificate or other evidence of acceptance by an organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.
- (2) The authority having jurisdiction shall require a report of tests made by other inspection authorities or organizations acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

### **11.11.2.3**

Where required by the authority having jurisdiction, confirmatory field tests shall be conducted using test specimens from the original material, which shall have been affixed at the time of manufacture to the exterior of the tent.

### **11.11.3 Location and Spacing.**

#### **11.11.3.1**

There shall be a minimum of 10 ft (3 m) between stake lines.

#### **11.11.3.2**

Adjacent tents shall be spaced to provide an area to be used as a means of emergency egress. Where 10 ft (3 m) between stake lines does not meet the requirements for means of egress, the distance necessary for means of egress shall govern.

Exception No. 1: Tents not occupied by the public and not used for the storage of combustible material shall be permitted to be erected less than 10 ft (3 m) from other structures where the authority having jurisdiction deems such close spacing safe from hazard to the public.

Exception No. 2: Tents, each not exceeding 1200 ft<sup>2</sup> (111.5 m<sup>2</sup>) in ground area and located in fairgrounds or similar open spaces, shall not be required to be separated from each other, provided that safety precautions meet the approval of the authority having jurisdiction.

#### **11.11.3.3**

The placement of tents relative to other structures shall be at the discretion of the authority having jurisdiction, with consideration given to occupancy, use, opening, exposure, and other similar factors.

### **11.11.4 Fire Hazards.**

#### **11.11.4.1**

The ground enclosed by any tent, and the ground for a reasonable distance but for not less than 10 ft (3 m) outside of such a tent(s), shall be cleared of all flammable or combustible material or vegetation. This work shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the authority having jurisdiction prior to the erection of such a tent(s). The premises shall be kept free from such flammable or combustible materials during the period for which the public uses the premises.

Exception: Removal of flammable or combustible material shall not apply to areas used for necessary support equipment.

#### **11.11.4.2**

Where prohibited by the authority having jurisdiction, smoking shall not be permitted in any tent.

### **11.11.5 Fire-Extinguishing Equipment.**

Portable fire-extinguishing equipment of approved types shall be furnished and maintained in tents in such quantity and in such locations as directed by the authority having jurisdiction.

### **11.11.6 Services.**

#### **11.11.6.1 Fired Heaters.**

##### **11.11.6.1.1**

Only labeled heating devices shall be used.

##### **11.11.6.1.2**

Fuel-fired heaters and their installation shall be approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

##### **11.11.6.1.3**

Containers for liquefied petroleum gases shall be installed not less than 5 ft (1.5 m) from any tent and shall be in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.

**11.11.6.1.4**

Tanks shall be secured in the upright position and protected from vehicular traffic.

**11.11.6.2 Electric Heaters.**

**11.11.6.2.1**

Only labeled heaters shall be permitted.

**11.11.6.2.2**

Heaters used inside a tent shall be approved.

**11.11.6.2.3**

Heaters shall be connected to electricity by electric cable that is suitable for outside use and is of sufficient size to handle the electrical load.